and information as may be required.

**Prices of Gas from Oman and Iran**

2941. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA;
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY;
SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE;
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY;
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN;

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gas from Oman and Iran is going to be supplied through pipelines is likely to be much higher in terms Of price compared to our gas price by 230 per cent;

(b) what is the justification of Oman and Iran for asking such high price of gas;

(c) what is the price of gas offered by Oman and Iran and what is our local price;

(d) what is the quantum of gas supply estimated from Oman and Iran pipe lines and what is the short fall today to meet registered demand of gas;

(e) what are the names of gas reserves discovered and the rate of exploitation currently; and

(f) whether coal gasification is being planned or there is any significant potential for coal gasification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The price of the gas to be imported from Oman is being negotiated with the Oman Oil Company. No price offer has as yet been received from Iran.

(d) The Oman Oil Company has proposed the supply of about 57 MMSCMD of gas to India. The estimated shortfall by the year 2000 A.D is around 78 MMSCMD.

(e) As against the balance recoverable reserves of 700 BCM as on 1.4.1993, the current production of gas is 49.87 MMSCMD.

(f) ONGC has taken up an R&D project for Underground Coal Gasification. The techno-economic feasibility of Underground Coal Gasification is yet to be established.

**Upgradation to SAG posts in Railways**

2942. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals under Government's consideration for upgrading nearly 150 S.A.G. Grade posts to General Managers grade by the Indian Railways;

(b) if so, whether Group 'A' and Group 'B' posts are likely to be surrendered in return; and

(c) if not, whether it is a fact that Group 'A' and 'B' officers would be stagnated and how the stagnation is proposed to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The aspect of stagnation is taken into account in the periodica] cadre reviews of gazetted servioes.

**स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों को स्थायी/अस्थायी पास जारी किया जाना**

2943. श्री रामदेव भंडारी: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उनका मंत्रालय उन स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों को, जिन्होंने अपने